What is claimed is:

CLAIMS

1. A method comprising:

issuing a read request to request reading of at least one portion of data stored in a first storage device;

issuing a write request to request writing of the at least one portion of the data into one of a second storage device and at least one location in the first storage device, the at least one location being comprised in a volume of a redundant array of expensive disks (RAID); and

if a request to access one or more other portions of the data is at least one of received and issued by one or more operating system processes while at least one of the reading and the writing is occurring, issuing an access request to request accessing of the one or more other portions of the data.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the accessing occurs, at least in part, while the at least one of the reading and the writing is occurring.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

issuing a storage request to request storing, in a third storage device, of check data generated, based at least at in part upon the at least one portion of the data.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein:

the check data comprises parity data.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the first storage device and the second storage device comprise one or more mass storage devices.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

after the writing, issuing a storage request to request storing in at least one of the first storage device and the second storage device an indication, at least in part, of at least one other portion of the data to be read.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

issuing a storage request to request storing in at least one of the first storage device and the second storage device of information describing, at least in part, configuration of the RAID.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein:

a part of the at least one portion of the data is stored in the at least one location; and

the method further comprises, prior to the writing, issuing a storage request to request storing of the at least one portion of the data in at least one other location in the first storage device.

9. An apparatus comprising:

circuitry capable of:

issuing a read request to request reading of at least one portion of data stored in a first storage device;

issuing a write request to request writing of the at least one portion of the data into one of a second storage device and at least one location in the first

storage device, the at least one location being comprised in a volume of a redundant array of expensive disks (RAID); and

if a request to access one or more other portions of the data is at least one of received and issued by one or more operating system processes while at least one of the reading and the writing is occurring, issuing an access request to request accessing of the one or more other portions of the data.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein:

the accessing occurs, at least in part, while the at least one of the reading and the writing is occurring.

11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein:

the circuitry is also capable of issuing a storage request to request storing, in a third storage device, of check data generated, based at least at in part upon the at least one portion of the data.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:

the check data comprises parity data.

13. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein:

the first storage device and the second storage device comprise one or more mass storage devices.

14. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein:

the circuitry is also capable of, after the writing, issuing a storage request to request storing in at least one of the first storage device and the second storage device an indication, at least in part, of at least one other portion of the data to be read.

15. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein:

the circuitry is also capable of issuing a storage request to request storing in at least one of the first storage device and the second storage device of information describing, at least in part, configuration of the RAID.

16. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein:

a part of the at least one portion of the data is stored in the at least one location; and

the circuitry is also capable of, prior to the writing, issuing a storage request to request storing of the at least one portion of the data in at least one other location in the first storage device.

17. An article comprising:

a storage medium having stored therein instructions that when executed by a machine result in the following:

issuing a read request to request reading of at least one portion of data stored in a first storage device;

issuing a write request to request writing of the at least one portion of the data into one of a second storage device and at least one location in the first storage device, the at least one location being comprised in a volume of a redundant array of expensive disks (RAID); and

if a request to access one or more other portions of the data is at least one of received and issued by one or more operating system processes while at least one of the reading and the writing is occurring, issuing an access request to request accessing of the one or more other portions of the data.

18. The article of claim 17, wherein:

the accessing occurs, at least in part, while the at least one of the reading and the writing is occurring.

19. The article of claim 17, wherein the instructions when executed also result in:

issuing a storage request to request storing, in a third storage device, of check data generated, based at least at in part upon the at least one portion of the data.

20. The article of claim 19, wherein:

the check data comprises parity data.

21. The article of claim 17, wherein:

the first storage device and the second storage device comprise one or more mass storage devices.

22. The article of claim 17, wherein the instructions when executed by the machine also result in:

after the writing, issuing a storage request to request storing in at least one of the first storage device and the second storage device an indication, at least in part, of at least one other portion of the data to be read.

23. The article of claim 17, wherein the instructions when executed also result in:

issuing a storage request to request storing in at least one of the first storage device and the second storage device of information describing, at least in part, configuration of the RAID.

24. The article of claim 17, wherein:

a part of the at least one portion of the data is stored in the at least one location; and

the instructions when executed by the machine also result in, prior to the writing, issuing a storage request to request storing of the at least one portion of the data in at least one other location in the first storage device.

25. A system comprising:

a circuit board comprising read only memory (ROM) to store instructions; and

circuitry capable of executing the instructions, execution of the instructions by the circuitry resulting in:

issuing a read request to request reading of at least one portion of data stored in a first storage device;

issuing a write request to request writing of the at least one portion of the data into one of a second storage device and at least one location in the first storage device, the at least one location being comprised in a volume of a redundant array of expensive disks (RAID); and

if a request to access one or more other portions of the data is at least one of received and issued by one or more operating system processes while at least one of the reading and the writing is occurring, issuing an access request to request accessing of the one or more other portions of the data.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein:

the circuit board comprises, at least in part, the circuitry; and

the circuitry comprises a processor capable of executing the instructions.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein:

the circuit board also comprise a chipset coupled to the processor and to the ROM.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein:

the circuit board also comprises a bus and a circuit card slot coupled to the bus, the slot being coupled to the processor via the chipset.

29. The system of claim 25, wherein:

the instructions are comprised in basic input/output system (BIOS) instructions stored in the ROM.